

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-26 have been cancelled.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a refrigeration plant, which comprises in a refrigeration circuit a compressor (5), a condenser, an ~~injection~~ expansion valve (6) with an entrance and an exit, and an evaporator (1), the evaporator being passed through on its secondary side by a secondary medium to be cooled down, whereby a heat exchanger (4) is provided between a feed line for the secondary medium and a refrigerant line leading to the entrance of said ~~injection~~ expansion valve (6), such that said heat exchanger is positioned directly upstream of the entrance of said ~~injection~~ expansion valve, and whereby the method is comprised of the step of keeping constant the temperature (A) of the refrigerant at the entrance of the ~~injection~~ expansion valve (6), thereby achieving a stable operation of and hence a highly efficient evaporation in the refrigeration circuit.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, further including the step of at least partially passing a mass flow of the cooled-down secondary medium through the heat exchanger (4) in parallel or counter-flow or cross-flow with respect to the refrigerant flow by means of a first valve (11).

29. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 27, further including the step of passing the refrigerant leaving said evaporator (1) through an internal heat exchanger (2), which may operate as a second evaporating means.

30. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 29, whereby, by means of a second valve (9) provided between said refrigerant line leading to said ~~injection~~ expansion valve (6) and said internal heat exchanger (2), further including the step of passing a predetermined part of the refrigerant mass flow through said internal heat exchanger (2), while the remaining mass flow is directly conducted to said ~~injection~~ expansion valve (6), to additionally keep the temperature (A) of the refrigerant at the entrance of the ~~injection~~ expansion valve (6) constant.

31. (Currently Amended) A refrigeration plant for conducting the method according to one of the claims 27-30, whereby said refrigeration plant comprises in a refrigeration circuit a compressor (5), a condenser, an ~~injection~~ expansion valve (6) with an entrance and an exit and an evaporator (1), wherein the evaporator being passed through on its secondary side by a secondary medium to be cooled down, whereby a heat exchanger (4) is provided between a feed line for the secondary medium and a refrigerant line leading to the entrance of said ~~injection~~ expansion valve (6), wherein the heat exchanger is passed through by said refrigerant on the primary side of the heat exchanger, and by said cooled-down secondary medium on the secondary side of the heat exchanger.

32. (Currently Amended) The refrigeration ~~Refrigeration~~ plant according to claim 31, whereby a first valve (11) is arranged at the secondary side of said heat exchanger (4), such that a mass flow of said cooled-down secondary medium is at least partly passed through said heat exchanger in parallel or counter-flow or cross-flow with respect to the refrigerant flow.

33. (Currently Amended) The refrigeration ~~Refrigeration~~ plant according to claim 31, whereby the refrigerant leaving said evaporator (1) is passed through an internal heat exchanger (2), and whereby a second valve (9) is provided between said refrigerant line leading to said ~~injection~~ expansion valve (6) and said internal heat exchanger (2), such that a predetermined part of the refrigerant mass flow is passed through said internal heat exchanger (2), while the remaining mass flow is directly conducted to said ~~injection~~ expansion valve (6).